



## Advantages:

- Thinning without chemicals
- Increase in fruit size, colour uniformity and yield
- Labour and time saving
- Cost cutting
- Not weather reliant
- Front mounted, hydraulically driven with variable speed spindle head



## Mechanical thinning with Darwin

Excellent fruit size and quality are achieved by using the Darwin mechanical blossom thinner.

Thinning is mandatory in order to reach high fruit quality and high yields. This is very important with new apple cultivars with high flowering intensity and high fruit-charge. The regulation of the fruit is one of the most important crop factors that contribute to ensure fruit quality.

The machine is attached to the front linkage system of the tractor or by a frame if the tractor does not have front linkage. The hydraulic adjustment of the spindle angle allows for thinning to the correct shape of the tree, along with variable speed to suit different varieties and the amount of thinning required. The tractor and the machine drive closely along the tree rows and whip the buds, flower clusters or individual blooms depending upon the point of contact.

This machine has been trialled and used now for four years in the UK on suitably planted orchards and has been shown to produce fantastic results with improvements in colour uniformity, size and yield.

The idea of mechanical thinning arose in 1990 from the desire for a thinning method, which is labour-saving, chemical-free and as weather independent as possible. In the course of several years of work and experience, Hermann Gessler, fruit grower from the Lake Constance area, developed a patented system of a mechanical thinning machine, which became generally accepted and is often used. Fruit-tec now manufacture the patented Darwin mechanical thinner.